

Billboards

The City Council recently established a Billboard Replacement Pilot Program. This program provides for the removal of billboards in residential, historic and other designated areas, in exchange for the placement of a new billboard on an interstate highway. On April 26th, the City Council will be voting on a proposal from Clear Channel to demolish and remove six billboards (12 sign faces) in designated areas of the City of Orlando, in exchange for the construction of one billboard along I-4 at John Young Parkway. The junior billboards are located at 409 East Michigan Street; 3334 Curry Ford Road; 2901 Curry Ford Road; 435 East Michigan Street; 210 North Bumby Avenue; and 2985 Silver Star Road. Removing these billboards should really help to improve the appearance of these neighborhood business areas.

Women's Personal Safety classes

Many of you may remember Officer Ernest Smith who served as the Orlando Police Department Liaison for our district. One of his current duties is to teach women's personal safety classes. If you (and 20 or more of your neighbors) would like to have Officer Smith offer this course in your neighborhood, please contact him at 407-246-3931. The class is mostly a powerpoint presentation with a light physical portion at the end. It is a 2 hour class and limits participation to adult women. As this is an Orlando Police Department crime prevention program, there is no charge for the class.

Medical City Update

One bright spot in our economy is Medical City. As you may know this is the area in Southeast Orlando where many new medically based organizations will be located. The Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute opened its doors in April 2009. The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting bids for the construction of the new V.A. hospital which is expected to open in 2012. The Nemours Children's Hospital is also under construction and will open in 2012. The new UCF Medical School and Health Sciences Campus should be fully operational this year. And, the City Commission recently approved the site plans for the University of Florida Research Center. Together with other medical and bio-medical organizations and businesses, we will be taking a huge step forward in diversifying our economy and bringing high paying jobs to our community.

District 1 E-Mail List

As many of you know, from time to time, I periodically send emails to keep people up to date on District 1 issues and events. If you would like to be added to this list so that you can also be up to date and receive these emails, please email me or call me.

Questions or Comments

If you have any other questions, comments or concerns, please call me at 407-246-2001 or email me at phil.diamond@cityoforlando.net. My aide, Jeanne Wilson, can be reached at 407-246-3011 or email at jeanne.wilson@cityoforlando.net and Police Officer Edgar Malave can be reached at 407-246-2513 or email at edgar.malave@cityoforlando.net.

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Phil Diamond
Commissioner District 1
Orlando City Council
400 S. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
407-246-2001 phone
407-246-3010 fax